

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A zoom optical system includes a deformable element having a focusing function and two lens groups movable in a magnification change and having a magnification varying function or a
5 compensating function for compensating for a shift of an image surface. Alternatively, a zoom optical system includes, in order from the object side, a first group having a negative power and being fixed in a magnification change, a second group having a positive power and being movable in a magnification change, and
10 a third group movable in a magnification change. The first group has a deformable element having a focusing function. An imaging apparatus is provided with either zoom optical system. Whereby, a high-performance zoom optical system with small fluctuation of aberrations in spite of use of a deformable element and a
15 photographing apparatus using the same zoom optical system are provided.